

To: Miller, Linda[miller.linda@epa.gov]
From: Levine, Carolyn
Sent: Thur 1/30/2014 11:46:09 PM
Subject: RE: Senator Rockefeller follow-up questions regarding WV chemical spill

Thanks, can you reply to the last email on that, and I will reply on the other stuff once I have it.

Carolyn Levine

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From: Miller, Linda
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2014 6:40 PM
To: Levine, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Senator Rockefeller follow-up questions regarding WV chemical spill

Here is status of outreach as of 230 pm

EPA continues to leave messages for the Marshall University professor who reported formaldehyde in a drinking water sample from a restaurant in Charleston, WV but no response to date.

Linda Miller

EPA Region III

Office of State and Congressional Relations

1650 Arch Street

Philadelphia, PA 19103

215 814 2068

Cell: 215 287-7414

From: Levine, Carolyn

Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2014 6:37 PM

To: Miller, Linda

Subject: FW: Senator Rockefeller follow-up questions regarding WV chemical spill

Hi Linda-

First part of Qs below is for HQ- ORD re: formaldehyde tox research, but Simonton contact and pph studies is for region I think. Can you check?

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From: Chambers, Laura (Rockefeller) [mailto:Laura_Chambers@rockefeller.senate.gov]

Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2014 5:57 PM

To: Levine, Carolyn; Distefano, Nichole; Vaught, Laura; Miller, Linda

Cc: Goodwin, Rochelle (Rockefeller); Orr, Asley (Rockefeller)

Subject: RE: Senator Rockefeller follow-up questions regarding WV chemical spill

Hi everyone,

Any more news on the formaldehyde? You had mentioned reaching out Scott Simonton regarding his information and sampling procedures. Also, we would appreciate any information you could provide on what “normal levels” of formaldehyde (in the air and in the water) would be. It’s our understanding his findings were 32 parts per billion of formaldehyde.

Also, please keep us updated on how testing is coming along for the PPH.

Thanks,

Laura

From: Levine, Carolyn [<mailto:Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 6:18 PM
To: Chambers, Laura (Rockefeller); Goodwin, Rochelle (Rockefeller); Orr, Asley (Rockefeller)
Cc: Distefano, Nichole; Vaught, Laura; Miller, Linda
Subject: RE: Senator Rockefeller follow-up questions regarding WV chemical spill

Hi all,

As you may know, the WV Department of Health and Human Resources issued a statement today stating that Scott Simonton’s findings regarding formaldehyde in the water are unfounded. EPA did reach out to him regarding his information and sampling procedures. Regarding PPH testing, EPA is looking at the product from the site and is still running analyses. The tox information was shared with NIEHS. I hope this helps.

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From: Chambers, Laura (Rockefeller) [mailto:Laura_Chambers@rockefeller.senate.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 1:12 PM
To: Levine, Carolyn; Goodwin, Rochelle (Rockefeller); Orr, Asley (Rockefeller)
Cc: Distefano, Nichole; Vaught, Laura; Miller, Linda
Subject: RE: Senator Rockefeller follow-up questions regarding WV chemical spill

Thanks for following up regarding proprietary chemicals. It sounds as though NIEHS has received what they need from Dow but are now working on BASF. Were you able to at least share the toxicity information you did have with them? Or was this something they already had?

We had another issue come up today with a scientist saying he found formaldehyde in the water. According to the MSDS, methanol (which he says breaks down into formaldehyde) is only 1% of the crude MCHM. Are you aware of these findings? Could you speak a little to that process?

Also, are you currently working on testing for PPH? How is that progress?

Marshall scientist found formaldehyde in Charleston water

By [David Gutman](#)

Advertiser

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- A Marshall University environmental scientist and member of the state Environmental Quality Board said today that he has found formaldehyde in local water samples and that the continued lack of data on the chemical that leaked into the Elk River is very concerning.

"It's frightening, it really is frightening," said Scott Simonton, a member of the EQB, which oversees water permits for the state Department of Environmental Protection. "What we know scares us, and we know there's a lot more we don't know."

Simonton told a joint legislative committee on water resources that his family is still not drinking or cooking with the water, weeks after the water company and government officials have said it is safe for all uses.

"Your level of what risk you will accept is up to you, I can only tell you what mine is and I'm not drinking the water," Simonton said. "The formaldehyde had me personally a little freaked out."

Formaldehyde is a carcinogen, a chemical that causes cancer.

4-methylcyclohexanemethanol, or "Crude MCHM," the chemical compound that leaked into the Elk River, has methanol as one of its main components. Methanol breaks down into formaldehyde, Simonton said.

Simonton said that he found traces of formaldehyde in water samples taken from Vandalia Grille in downtown Charleston. He did not say when he found it, or how much he found.

Simonton said he was still concerned with the 1 part per million standard for Crude MCHM that the federal Centers for Disease Control have said is safe in water for everyone except pregnant women.

He stressed how little is still known about the chemical.

"We don't know what happens to this stuff once it gets into the environment," he said. "What happens when it reacts with makeup or soap or shampoo or anything else that we come into contact with everyday?"

The CDC's standard was based on several proprietary studies done on rats by Eastman Chemicals, which makes Crude MCHM.

Simonton said that in one study it couldn't even be determined what the cause of death was for the rats because there were so many different things happening to them. For another study, Eastman switched the species of rat after initial testing gave nearly a 100 percent mortality rate.

He also said that the flushing period recommended by West Virginia American Water and state officials wasn't enough, and that the chemical is sticking to pipes in the system.

Sen. John Unger, chair of the committee, summed up Simonton's findings.

"I think we're in a little bit of shock because of this," said Unger, D-Berkeley.

Reach David Gutman at david.gut...@wvgazette.com or 304-348-5119.

From: Levine, Carolyn [<mailto:Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 6:26 PM

To: Chambers, Laura (Rockefeller); Goodwin, Rochelle (Rockefeller); Orr, Asley (Rockefeller)

Cc: Distefano, Nichole; Vaught, Laura; Miller, Linda

Subject: RE: Senator Rockefeller follow-up questions regarding WV chemical spill

Hi all,

We have checked with our various EPA offices as well as ATSDR, and hopefully we can help to clarify some information.

Under the TSCA Chemical Data Reporting Rule, EPA collects production and use information on chemicals, which can be claimed as confidential. Our Toxics Program received chemical data reporting for propylene glycol phenyl ether, or PPH, although none of the submitted information was claimed to be confidential business information (CBI). EPA also has toxicity data on this chemical because it was subject to the OECD Screening Information Data Set (SIDS) program. EPA can share this information with other federal agencies.

NIH had the lead in requesting the PPH info from Dow. ATSDR shared with EPA that both NIH and ATSDR/CDC did get a transmission of the PPH info from Dow this weekend. EPA has not heard about Dow posting data, but we are checking with ATSDR. We are looking into whether the MSDS that Freedom provided addressed their "proprietary" mixture of 2 "PPH compounds;" each with its own MSDS (provided by the manufacturer-in this case, Dow).

ATSDR tells us that Dow was offering to provide diPPH analytical standards (not samples) to any of the interested labs working on this since this compound is not part of the NIST standards, maybe that is what you are hearing about?

I hope this helps.

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From: Chambers, Laura (Rockefeller) [mailto:Laura_Chambers@rockefeller.senate.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 3:46 PM

To: Levine, Carolyn; Goodwin, Rochelle (Rockefeller); Orr, Asley (Rockefeller)

Cc: Distefano, Nichole; Vaught, Laura; Miller, Linda

Subject: RE: Senator Rockefeller follow-up questions regarding WV chemical spill

We're hearing that Dow may have posted the information on PPH even though its proprietary.

Have you heard this as well or happen to know where that information would be?

Many thanks,

Laura

From: Chambers, Laura (Rockefeller)

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 2:33 PM

To: 'Levine, Carolyn'; Goodwin, Rochelle (Rockefeller); Orr, Asley (Rockefeller)

Cc: Distefano, Nichole; Vaught, Laura; Miller, Linda

Subject: RE: Senator Rockefeller follow-up questions regarding WV chemical spill

Thank you for following up. I know we had some additional questions for now – Does EPA have the ability to gather proprietary information on chemicals? If so, is the EPA working to secure this information for PPH basic? Is the EPA able to share this information with other federal agencies also working on the issue (such as CDC and NIH)?

Once we have a chance to look through the responses we will get back to you with any additional questions.

Many thanks,

Laura

Laura E. Chambers

Legislative Assistant

Office of Senator John D. Rockefeller IV

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From: Levine, Carolyn [<mailto:Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov>]

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 2:07 PM

To: Chambers, Laura (Rockefeller); Goodwin, Rochelle (Rockefeller); Orr, Asley (Rockefeller)

Cc: Distefano, Nichole; Vaught, Laura; Miller, Linda

Subject: RE: Senator Rockefeller follow-up questions regarding WV chemical spill

Hi all,

Attached are EPA response to the questions in Laura Chambers' email. Please let us know if you have any questions.

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From: Vaught, Laura
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2014 4:03 PM
To: Chambers, Laura (Rockefeller); Mark Ferrell
Cc: Goodwin, Rochelle (Rockefeller); Orr, Asley (Rockefeller); Levine, Carolyn; Distefano, Nichole; Snyder, Raquel
Subject: RE: Senator Rockefeller follow-up questions regarding WV chemical spill

Thanks Laura – appreciate it. I’m adding in some of the DC folks working on this as well so that everyone is on the same page. The latest I heard is that folks are trying to track down, but you have asked good/complicated questions! So it is taking a little bit of digging. Bear with us. And EPA folks – can we at least give an end of the day check in/status update?

From: Chambers, Laura (Rockefeller) [mailto:Laura_Chambers@rockefeller.senate.gov]
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2014 3:57 PM
To: Vaught, Laura; Mark Ferrell
Cc: Goodwin, Rochelle (Rockefeller); Orr, Asley (Rockefeller)
Subject: Senator Rockefeller follow-up questions regarding WV chemical spill

Hi Laura and Mark,

Thank you so much for your ongoing communication with our office. Senator Rockefeller has a great sense of urgency and interest in doing all he can to protect public health and the environment in light of this crisis, but also moving forward. Senator Rockefeller asked many of the questions below in the first days of the chemical spill, and has asked staff to be in touch with EPA to find answers and get your expertise and help in the spill response. We have had a number of calls with your office, and appreciate the time and explanations. However, there are still several questions that are still outstanding.

People have been told to make their own decisions about how and whether to use the water, and

they are struggling with adequate flushing that will eliminate MCHM and PPH from pipes, appliances, filters, hot water heaters and other materials. They are also worried about continued contamination as the chemicals may leach from river banks, carbon filters or plumbing. Senator Rockefeller hopes to be able to help folks as they navigate these challenges, as well as help prepare better to prevent future incidents. We appreciate any feedback you can provide to the questions below.

Thanks,

Laura

Chemical information (other than health affects)

- What has EPA been able to determine about the composition of Crude MCHM?
- What can EPA tell us about the latest development that a substance known as PPH was also held in the tank in addition to MCHM?
- Your office stated that EPA will be independently testing the contents of the remaining tanks at Freedom Industries that. How quickly will these tests be shared with other agencies working to protect public health and environment?
- What is the difference between PPH and PPH, stripped?
- What is the water solubility of MCHM and PPH / PPH, stripped? We have seen conflicting reports on hydrophobic vs. hydrophilic
- If the carbon filters at WV-American Water were compromised, would they have been sufficient to filter PPH?
- As people try to flush their systems they want to know how these two chemicals behave. Do they cling to materials like glass or metal? Do they permeate plastic/PVC?
- Many constituents are still experiencing a strong MCHM odor and others have been seeing a residue (sometimes oily). Could you help to address the smell and residue issues that are affecting customers at the end of the water lines?
- Could MCHM contain a long-chain polymer that might obscure the ability to detect other substances?

Remediation

- We are hearing of new reports of spikes in MCHM levels in recent days. Have you heard these reports? Could this be happening as a result of runoff from the contaminated site? If so, what is being done to prevent this other than the lined trenches?
- What timeline is appropriate for remediation of this type?
- Are there any prior or ongoing concerns with the remediation that would cause EPA to exercise primacy? How/When would EPA determine that they should step in to managing this event?

Looking Forward

- Following Senator Rockefeller's request to begin a long-term study on the health effects of these chemicals, in conjunction with the CDC, what are your next steps?
- It is our understanding that EPA, along with OSHA, Department of Labor and others, will be looking at bulk chemical storage and transport on a national level. Has this process begun?
- Was EPA supplied a copy of the 2002 study (as part of the Safe Drinking Water Act) that identified Critical Zones of Concern? And do you have any recommendations for protections?

Laura E. Chambers

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